

Brief Profile of UGC Chairman Professor Kazi Shahidullah

Professor Kazi Shahidullah has an “all-first” career. He passed **S.S.C** in the **First Division** in 1967 from **St. Gregory’s High School**. He did his **H.S.C** from **Dhaka College** in 1969 and was placed in the **First Division** securing the 17th position in the Dhaka Board’s Merit List. He then obtained **B.A. (Honours)** in 1972 and **M.A.** in 1973 from the **History Department, University of Dhaka** securing the **First Class First** position in both the examinations. Subsequently, he pursued higher studies at the **University of British Columbia, Canada** from where he was awarded **M.A.** degree in 1979, and the **University of Western Australia**, where he received the **Ph.D** degree in 1984. In both these institutions, he was the recipient of **University Graduate Fellowship**.

Prof. Kazi Shahidullah has done post-doctoral research work in the **United Kingdom** and **Australia**. As **Nuffield Fellow** in 1989, he was attached to the **Commonwealth Institute, U.K.** In 1992 he was **Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellow** and was attached to the **School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London**. From 1993 to 1995, Dr. Shahidullah did post-doctoral research work as a **Visiting Fellow, South Asia Research Unit, Curtin University of Technology, Australia**. During that period, he was concurrently a **Visiting Fellow** at the **Indian Ocean Centre for Peace Studies**, an institution jointly managed by **Curtin University** and the **University of Western Australia**. At the time, he was also involved with the **National Center for South Asian Studies located at Melbourne**. At **Curtin University**, Professor Shahidullah also taught a course on the History of the Indian Ocean Region in the School of Social and Asian Languages.

Dr. Shahidullah also participated in short term **International Visit Programs**. At the invitation of the United States Ambassador he visited United States for three weeks in April 2002 under the **International Visitor Program**. Similarly he visited Japan for two weeks under a grant from the **Japan Foundation** organized by Japanese Embassy in Dhaka. He also visited Iran for a week sponsored by the cultural wing of the Iranian Embassy. Professor Shahidullah was also a member of the **Dhaka University Dean’s Delegation** which on different occasions visited universities in Nepal, Pakistan and the United Kingdom for establishing academic collaboration, linkage, and exchange programs.

Kazi Shahidullah started his teaching career as **Lecturer** of History Department at the University of Dhaka on 3rd February 1976. He became a **Professor** of the University in 1991 and, after retirement from service, was appointed as **Supernumerary Professor** in the History Department in 2018. He has served the institution in different administrative capacities as well. He was **Chairperson**, Department of History from 2002 to 2005. He served three consecutive terms as elected **Dean** of the **Faculty of Arts** from 1997 to 2003. He was also elected to the **Dhaka University Senate** and was also an elected member of the **Dhaka University Syndicate** for a continuous period of about ten years from 1998.

Professor Shahidullah has published two books, *Literacy in Mid-Nineteenth Century Devon and Suffolk* (Dhaka: University Press Ltd, 1984) and *Patshalas into School: The Development of Indigenous Elementary Education in Bengal, 1854-1905* (Kolkata: Firma KLM 1987). He has also contributed an essay to *The Transmission of Knowledge in South Asia* (Oxford: New Delhi 1996). He has also contributed scholarly essays to national and international journals such as, **Indian Economic and Social History Review**, **Quarterly Review of Historical Studies**, **Journal of Pakistan Historical Society**, **Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh**, and **Dhaka University Studies**. He has served on the Editorial Board of **Dhaka University Studies**, Part B, and has been **Regional Editor** of **Contemporary South Asia**, a highly reputed international journal, published from Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford. During his long academic career, Professor Shahidullah held discussions, given talks, and participated in seminars in different universities of USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Japan, Iran, India, Pakistan and Nepal.

Professor Shahidullah is a keen sports enthusiast. He was a former **Chairman of Dhaka University Cricket Committee** and in his younger days, played cricket regularly for the **History Department** and the **Dhaka University Teachers' Cricket Team**. He was also **Indoor Sports Champion** of the **Dhaka University Teachers' Club** excelling in Tennis, Table-tennis, and Carom.

Professor Kazi Shahidullah served the **National University** as **Vice-Chancellor** for four years from 2009 to 2013. He is a life Member of **Bangladesh Asiatic Society** and **Bangladesh Historical Association** and **Donor Member/ Trustee** of **Begum Zebunnessa and Kazi Mahbubullah Welfare Trust**. He is married to Shabnam Shahidullah and has three children Natasha, Riyadh, and Nadir.